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16-8-03

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
MINORU KUSAKABE, et al.
Application No.: 09/671,623
Filed: September 28, 2000
For: IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND METHOD,
AND STORAGE MEDIUM

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Examiner: M. Nguyen
Group Art Unit: 2626
September 16, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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SEP 22 2003

Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to Japan 5-130376, which is listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of Japan 5-130376 is enclosed.

Japan 5-130376 was first cited in a Final Rejection for a Japanese Application corresponding to the subject application. A copy of the Final Rejection, which is date June 27, 2003, is enclosed. Also enclosed is an English-language abstract for Japan 5,130376.

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the

claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 50,957

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***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1